

Application No. 09/994,651

Art Unit 1713

March 31, 2004

Reply to Office Action of December 22, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 6-22 with the following amended paragraph:

The powdery dispersant is required to have the long-term shelf stability thereof prior to use, that is, the absence of adhesion (pressure resistance) attributable to the pressure in a package and the absence of adhesion and deterioration in dispersibility (humidity resistance) attributable to moisture absorption, but the conventional powdery dispersants, particularly comprising a monovalent metal salt of polycarboxylic acid-based copolymer, are still poor in pressure resistance and humidity resistance. Further, when dry powdering is conducted industrially, it is important that the viscosity of an aqueous solution of starting materials is not increased to such an extent as ~~not~~ to hinder pumping, etc., and further when the powdery dispersant is used in grout mortar, the resulting hydraulic composition just after kneading is required to have high flowability and suitable separation resistance, but the conventional dispersants are still not satisfactory for these requirements.